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- PRESS RELEASE -

SECRETARY MERRILL: ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION A MAJOR SUCCESS IN 2014!

SECRETARY OF THE STATE REPORTS MORE THAN 31,000 CONNECTICUT
VOTERS USED NEW SYSTEM TO REGISTER TO VOTE OR CHANGE
REGISTRATION STATUS SINCE LAUNCH IN FEBRUARY

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today declared Connecticut's new online voter registration system a major success, reporting that more than 31,000 Connecticut voters went online to become new voters or change their registration status since the system launched in February. Specifically, a total of 31,157 Connecticut voters used the online voter registration system, including 24,201 new voters and 6,956 voters who went online to change their registration status (party affiliation, address, etc.). These totals include some 6,342 new voters who registered online in the final week the system was available prior to the deadline of October 21st to register online prior to Election Day November 4, 2014. The largest group of new voters registering online were between the ages of 18-29, accounting for nearly 10,000 new Connecticut voters. Despite this, there were also more than 2,000 new Connecticut voters over the age of 60 who went online to register to vote. The city of Stamford had the most new voters register online, followed by West Hartford, New Haven, and Greenwich. A complete breakdown of statistics relating to new voters registering online in 2014 follows at the bottom of this news release.

"I am so proud of the outstanding success of Connecticut's new online voter registration system," said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut's chief elections official. "As we said when we launched this new feature for Connecticut voters earlier this year, online voter registration has made it so easy for any eligible citizen in our state with a Connecticut driver's license to become a new voter or change their status. This has shown to be an incredibly popular feature, allowing people of all ages and geographic locations to register to vote – even using smartphones and tablets. This has not only made things more convenient for Connecticut voters, but has also greatly streamlined the process for local election officials and is making our voter lists more accurate. We expect demand for online voter registration to significantly increase in the future!"

In February, Connecticut became the 15th U.S. state and first in New England to provide online voter registration. Since then five other states have launched similar features for

voters. The Connecticut General Assembly and Governor Dannel P. Malloy in 2012 enacted a law requiring that both that eligible voters be allowed to register and vote on Election Day starting in November 2013, and that online voter registration be made available by 2014. Connecticut’s online voter registration system checks voter information entered online with matching information already on file for the individual at the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. Matching information then populates a form that is sent via email to the registrar of voters where the new voter or voter changing address wants to register. The registrar of voters must then check the entered information and verify that it is accurate before adding the new voter to the Connecticut Voter Registration System statewide database. Secretary Merrill’s office worked with the Connecticut DMV to implement a new law requiring online voter registration that was enacted in 2012. Under the law, a new voter registering online agrees to add their electronic signature – already on file with the DMV – to the voter registration form online. With the electronic signature, the new voter attests online that all of the information contained in the voter registration form is true and accurate.

The following represent statistics generated by Connecticut’s online voter registration system since it launched on February 18, 2014:

VOTERS USING ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM

New Voters:	24,201
Changing Status:	6,956
TOTAL	31,157

NEW VOTERS REGISTERING ONLINE BY PARTY:

Party	Count
Republican	5,026
Democratic	6,458
Unaffiliated	11,997
Other	702

COMMUNITIES WITH MOST NEW VOTERS REGISTERING ONLINE:

City/Town	New Requests
Stamford	903
West Hartford	799
New Haven	737
Greenwich	602
Norwalk	589
Middletown	482
Manchester	458
Milford	447
Hartford	446
Fairfield	434
Danbury	403

NEW VOTERS REGISTERING ONLINE BY AGE:

18-29	9,915
30-44	7,927
45-59	4,251
60 +	2,026

NEW VOTERS REGISTERING ONLINE, WEEK OF 10/14-10/21:

Date	Total
10/14/2014	576
10/15/2014	566
10/16/2014	583
10/17/2014	454
10/18/2014	356
10/19/2014	506
10/20/2014	1325
10/21/2014	1976
TOTAL	6,342

NEW VOTERS REGISTERING ONLINE, OCTOBER 1-13, 2014:

Date	Total
10/1/2014	882
10/2/2014	691
10/3/2014	532
10/4/2014	551
10/5/2014	490
10/6/2014	811
10/7/2014	673
10/8/2014	656
10/9/2014	526
10/10/2014	442
10/11/2014	332
10/12/2014	207
10/13/2014	572
TOTAL	7,365